

PUBLIC SESSION
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT

MARCH 10, 1980

The Regular Public Session of the Mayor and City Council was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by the President of the Council Mr. Frank Blackwell. The following councilmembers were present:

Mr. Frank Blackwell
Mr. Ernest Digennaro

Mr. Virginius Williams
Mr. Thomas Brooks

Mrs. Rosalie Jones and Mr. Joseph Whitfield were not present. Mr. Gallion arrived at 8:09 P.M.

The Minutes for the February 11, 1980 Public Session were approved as amended with the following corrections: Mr. Wade, CIP Committee Report on Rodent Control was inadvertently omitted. Mr. Williams corrected the Minutes to read that he was not gathering information along with Ms. Rosa Black as stated in the previous months Minutes. Mr. Gallion corrected the Minutes to read that he had been on another seminar in the month of February.

ZONING CHANGE

Mr. Frank Blackwell stated that Mayor Arrington's request for zoning had been discussed at the Council work session. The general consensus of members at that meeting was that enough restaurants were along the George Palmer Highway corridor.

Mayor Arrington stated that the property did not require re-zoning thus, Council approval was not required.

Mr. Williams stated that it was the majority of the Council not the general consensus. He favored the construction of a family type restaurant.

CRIME PREVENTION CENTER-Ms. Burt

Ms. Marianna Burt from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency informed the Council and Citizens of her organization with respect to purposes and major projects. She requested that the Council join with citizens to form a committee to assist Mrs. Myrna Watkins in strengthening and developing the Youth Crime Prevention Center Project.

Ms. Burt reported that the NCCD is the nation's largest and oldest non-governmental criminal justice reform organization. It is comprised of tens of thousands of professionals and lay citizens working together to stimulate enlightened community programs for the prevention, treatment and control of delinquency and crime. She further stated, that since 1907 NCCD has served the cause of humane and effective justice through its nationwide program of research, training, standard-setting, citizen mobilization, information dissemination and publications.

Mr. Blackwell asked Ms. Burt how does your program fit into our program in the Seat Pleasant area?

Some of the programs that she explained that she was involved in were: 1. Teenage pregnancy counseling. 2. Preparing children for the General Education Test 3. Shoplifting campaigns. Nutrition Training etc;. She further stated that the only thing that NCCD wanted to do is to enrich and enhance the program that you already have implemented in the community.

Mr. Digennaro asked Ms. Burt to explain what she meant when she stated the Geographical Boundaries: He wanted to know if she meant the geographical boundaries of the City or just in the City limits.

Ms. Burt explained that she was given zip-code 20027. Mr. Digennaro stated that this includes more than the Seat Pleasant area and some of the small towns surrounding the area, i.e. (Capital Heights).

Mayor Arrington thanked Ms. Burt for coming and suggested that councilmembers take a look at the crime situation in Seat Pleasant even though the crime is not committed by Citizens in the City, there are crimes still being committed by persons coming into the area. It was reported to the Mayor that Greendale has a tank in the ground that was broken into. Someone had removed the top two times and poured dirt down into the tank. He also had received a report that the Safeway Store on George Palmer Highway does not allow children in the store unless accompanied by an adult because of vandalism and shoplifting. He stated, that there is a need to start a committee as soon as possible to work in this area.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Mrs. Evalyn King asked councilmembers about the Recreation for children, and asked if they had suggested some type of recreation in the area.

Mr. Williams stated that he had suggested that a skating rink be constructed in the Goodwin Park area. He further contended that he had been placed in charge of looking in- to a bowling alley in 1978. A survey was done with three bowling companies and they did not think that this would be profitable. Since, Metro has moved into the area he stated that this might change their attitude.

Mr. Wade expressed concern over the rodent control legislation that he presented in the form of a letter concerning Gregory Estates. He would like to know if Mr. Fannon has drafted a Resolution to this effect. He also, asked about the Agenda's and wanted to know if it was possible that the citizens attending the Public Session could receive a copy so they would know what is going on.

Mr. Tobias stated that it was an oversight and assured Mr. Wade that they would receive a copy of the Agenda's at the next Public Session. He further stated that Mr. Fannon has not prepared a draft copy of the Resolution on Rodent Control but he would contact him concern- ing this matter. Mr. Tobias also added that Mr. Fannon would look at the State Laws and if permissable would proceed with drafting a Resolution.

Mayor Arrington explained that Mr. Fannon stated that before a building can be erected or demolished they would have to obtain a County permit and a Town permit. It can be simply an Administrative procedure; i.e. (before a building permit is issued that we can impose the necessary requirements).

Morris Goodwin asked Councilmembers was the Renovation of Gregory Estates being done by the City or a private contractor?

Mayor Arrington stated that the renovation is being done by a private contractor, Mid-City Developers in Bethesda, Maryland. He further stated that before they can demolish a building permit has to be obtained and an explanation in detail containing what they pro- pose to do, and submitted to the County. The County Executive has directed the staff in charge of issuing permits to move as expeditiously as possible and to do everything humanly possible to give them all the necessary permits to get the job completed.

Mr. Goodwin asked was it necessary to demolish the complete structure of the building?

Mayor Arrington explained that they would not tear down the structure and that the foundations are good and that they were going to gut the insides.

Mr. Gallion added that they would begin the work on the Gregory Estates somewhere around April 1st.

Mr. Fannon arrived at 9:30 P.M.

Mr. Brooks released information that he had obtained from the County on the number of buildings and people that would be occupying the area when completed. He stated that there were, 304-1-bedroom units, 250-2-bedroom units, after the rehabilitation process there will be, 125-1-bedroom units, 125-2-bedroom units.

Mr. Fannon addressed the Council and stated that he would check into the legalities of drafting a rodent control Resolution.

Mrs. Gloria Goodwin stated that she agrees that the Council should act on an Emergency Legislation and that the Council direct Mr. Fannon on drafting an Ordinance before they start building and demolishing, that they would do something about the rodents. She has seen a number of rats running across the street from Gregory.

Mr. Blackwell asked Mr. Fannon to look into the problem and get back with the Council as soon as possible. He also suggested that the Council work on the Emergency Resolution at next Wednesday's work session.

Mr. Fannon explained to Councilmembers that an Emergency Resolution was only good for sixty days. Sometimes during the sixty day period it would have to be introduced as a Ordinance, publicized and discussed in order to have it on the books permanently.

Mrs. Acty of 303 67th Street would like for the City to make the necessary repairs that were promised on her street two years ago.

Mr. Tobias explained that the 67th Street would be included in this years project and the engineer has drawn specifications to begin the work when the grant money comes in.

ORDINANCE 80-01

AN ORDINANCE for the purpose of prohibiting the rental or leasing of City owned property or space therein to non-City agencies or programs without prior consent and approval of the City Council.

Mr. Fannon stated that a Ordinance cannot be passed the first time it is introduced at a meeting. Mr. Gallion moved that the Introduction become a part of the Record. Mr. Brooks seconded. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Wade expressed concern over the word "indirectly" or "directly" as stated in the second paragraph of the second line of the Ordinance. Mr. Williams explained what it does; it gives a clarity, hence forth it will not happen. He also stated that before a activity is brought into the City the Council will have to approve and to clarify how things go in the future. It was recommended by Mr. Blackwell that Mr. Fannon take out the words directly or indirectly to eliminate confusion.

to eliminate confusion. Mr. Brooks moved that we take out directly or indirectly wherever it appears in the Ordinance. Mr. Digennaro seconded. The motion was carried with a vote of four. There was one abstention.

RESOLUTION 80-01

A RESOLUTION to provide for the proper usage of the Community Center Building and the Activity Center Building. It was moved by Mr. Gallion that we Table the discussion on Resoluion 80-02 until Mr. Fannon submits a redraft to include all City properties. Mr. Williams seconded.

RESOLUTION 80-02

A RESOLUTION to provide for the transfer of excess funds from checking accounts to savings or other interest drawing accounts. Mr. Digennaro moved to adopt Resolution 80-02. Mr. Gallion seconded. The motion was carried with a vote of four. There was one abstention.

RESOLUTION 80-03

A RESOLUTION to provide for the operating of any program that is not a function of Seat Pleasant only with the prior consent and approval of the City Council.

Mr. Brooks moved that we adopt Resolution 80-03. Mr. Gallion seconded. The motion carried with a vote of four. There was one abstention.

ACTIVITY CENTER CONTRACT

Mr. Gallion moved to accept the Activity Center Contract. Mr. Brooks seconded. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Williams moved that the meeting adjourn. Mr. Digennaro seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charlotte L. Gunn
Acting City Clerk